Cottage Grove Landfill
SAT Site Summary

Description

The Cottage Grove Landfill is an inactive landfill located directly west of the Land and Lakes 2 Landfill. The landfill covers 14 acres of an 18 acre property. The site is on the Little Calumet River, 1 mile west of the Calumet Expressway. It is located at the northwest corner of the intersection at 138th St. and Cottage Grove Ave. The site borders the River to the north, Land and Lakes 2 to the east, an industrial complex to the south and a harbor with marina (used for recreational boating) to the west. A pond covers 2 acres on the NE side of the property. A residence is located on the southeastern corner of the property. The site is in the SE 1/4 of S34, T37N, R14E of the 3rd Principal Meridian. A 4 mile radius survey finds land use to be recreational, industrial, residential. The site has no engineered liner or leachate collection system.

Background

The landfill operated from 1976 to 1982. The site was cited by IEPA for accepting hazardous waste, for which the facility was not permitted. Eight acres of the site were covered with lagoon sludge containing heavy metals. The sludge reportedly contains Mercury (1,400 to 16,000 ug/kg), lead (154 to 3,390 mg/kg), chromium (438 to 4940 mg/kg), and cadmium (37 to 576 mg/kg). Slope erosion and leachate production have been documented at the site. A drive-by in 1991 by FIT found erosion of the landfill cover, resulting in exposed debris.

The owner, Louis Meneghin, began accepting waste in 1976; the facility was permitted by the State as a sanitary landfill.

Sampling performed in 1982 found elevated levels of contaminants in GW and in on-site leachate ponds. In 1984 FIT personnel conducted an SI. On-site salvage operations were observed. The report identified leachate seeps and the fact that recycled municipal sewage sludge was used as a cap.

A 1986 order led to the implementation of improvements at the site including addition of 4 methane flares and capping of the site with an unidentified amount of clay. Three new monitoring wells were also added. The slopes of the landfill were graded and earth berms were constructed along the western and northern landfill perimeter to prevent channeling runoff from going directly into the Little Calumet River and reduce erosion.

There is no record of RCRA activity at the site. A 1986 suit against the landfill ordered final closure and monitoring.

On April 28, 1993, a site visit was made by EPA contractors. They observed no surficial threats and observed that the landfill

surface was heavily vegetated. The site was not secured with access being possible from 138th Street. A house is located on the southern perimeter, within 200 feet of the landfill. The property caretaker and his family occupy the house. The house uses a private well located on the property, but the water is not used for drinking. The caretaker also seems to maintain bee hives used for the production of honey.

On-site pond water samples showed only elevated magnesium levels. On-site pond sediment samples contained 7 semivolatile compounds in concentrations meeting observed release criteria (phenanthrene (8.4 mg/kg), fluoranthene (14 mg/kg), pyrene (9.2 mg/kg), benzo(a)anthracene (7.3 mg/kg), chrysene (5.7 mg/kg), benzo(a)fluoranthene (7.2 mg/kg), and benzo(a)pyrene (4.3 mg/kg). Downstream sediment samples collected in the Little Calumet River.

Soil samples from the on-site residence's yard contained elevated levels of various contaminants. Soil samples from on top of the landfill contained hazardous substances including volatile and semi-volatile organics, inorganic analytes, and pesticides. Ground water samples were found to contain elevated levels of contaminants as well.

I will forward to you copies of the ESI and will be in touch to set up an SAT meeting soon.